

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
EASTERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

ARMANDO ABREU,  
Plaintiff,

v.

GAVIN NEWSOM, et al.,  
Defendants.

Case No. 1:21-cv-00303-NONE-SKO (PC)

**ORDER DENYING MOTION FOR  
APPOINTMENT OF COUNSEL**

(Doc. 9)

Plaintiff Armando Abreu is a state prison appearing *pro se* in this civil rights action brought pursuant to 42 U.S.C. § 1983. He requests the appointment of counsel to represent him in this case. (Doc. 9.)

Plaintiffs do not have a constitutional right to appointed counsel in section 1983 actions, *Rand v. Rowland*, 113 F.3d 1520, 1525 (9th Cir. 1997), and the Court cannot require an attorney to represent a party under 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), *see Mallard v. U.S. Dist. Court*, 490 U.S. 296, 304-05 (1989). However, in “exceptional circumstances,” the Court may request the voluntary assistance of counsel pursuant to section 1915(e)(1). *Rand*, 113 F.3d at 1525.

Given that the Court has no reasonable method of securing and compensating counsel, the Court will seek volunteer counsel only in extraordinary cases. In determining whether “exceptional circumstances exist, a district court must evaluate both the likelihood of success on the merits [and] the ability of the [plaintiff] to articulate his claims *pro se* in light of the

1 complexity of the legal issues involved.” *Id.* (internal quotation marks and citations omitted).

2 In the present case, the Court does not find the required exceptional circumstances. Even  
3 if it is assumed that Plaintiff is not well versed in the law and has made serious allegations that, if  
4 proven, would entitle him to relief, his case is not extraordinary. The Court is faced with similar  
5 cases almost daily. In addition, at this stage in the proceedings, the Court cannot make a  
6 determination on whether Plaintiff is likely to succeed on the merits; and, based on a review of  
7 the records in this case, the Court does not find that Plaintiff cannot adequately articulate his  
8 claims.

9 Accordingly, the Court DENIES Plaintiff’s motion for the appointment of counsel without  
10 prejudice.

11 IT IS SO ORDERED.  
12

13 Dated: March 9, 2021

/s/ Sheila K. Oberto  
UNITED STATES MAGISTRATE JUDGE